

# THE CHAMPION

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## THE WHITE FLY

### FORMATION ABOUT THIS INSECT FOR GROWERS.

EDITOR OF THE CHAMPION: In view of the fact that the orange growers of DeSoto county are threatened with a visitation of the scourge of citrus trees the "White Fly" (*Aleyrodes citri* and Howard) it might be well to give all information possible to the hundreds of citrus growers of DeSoto county who are familiar with this insect.

The following is from C. L. Marlatt's report to the secretary of agriculture in 1900.

"The white fly of Florida and the gulf region is strictly not a scale insect, but belongs to a close allied family. In general appearance and habits, however, it exactly duplicates the true scale insects, and would be classed with them by every nontechnical grower."

I am sorry that it is impossible to furnish with cuts showing the various forms this insect assumes. I will do my best however to describe some of its forms. The fly in form something like a honey bee with four wings, two on each side of the body, it is no larger than a minute white gnat.

The wings are chalky, of a fine granular texture, from which fact it is frequently called the "mealy bug."

The egg is oval oblong, the length being about three times the width, and is attached to the stem by a stem, the young insect emerging from the large end opposite to that attached to the stem. The larval insect greatly resembles some forms of true scale insects, and is about three times the size of the egg and of the same shape, but flat. The next stage is the pupa which is very like the scale. The scale or skin of the pupa cracks open on the back and the adult insect escapes. In the pupal form the insect is provided with feet and antennae but not in the pupa.

For many years this very interesting insect has been known to infect the orange trees of Florida and Louisiana and also to be a common pest on the orange in green houses.

It has been found also on a number of plants other than the orange, such as yucca, cape myrtle, guavas, water oak and many very thick on other forest trees. The fact of its being found on other plants are of significance in indicating that it may be introduced in situations near a grove, which efforts are being made to terminate it.

The first careful description of this insect and general account of its habits were given by Riley and Howard in 1893.

"The damage by this insect, perhaps only secondarily, is the sapping of the vital juices of the plant, which, however, is not so considerable, (like the scale it sucks the juice of the leaf and fruit) since it multiplies enormously and often covers the under surface, especially of the leaves so that the insects fairly overlap.

The main injury, however, is due to the secretion by this insect,

in larvae and pupal stages, of a honey due similar to that secreted by the true scale insects.

This secretion is in enormous amount, and the sooty mold which develops in it frequently covers the entire upper surface of the leaves and produces very serious effects on the vitality of the plant. Frequently the assimilation by the plant of nourishment through the leaves is almost entirely stopped.

The growth of the plant becomes greatly checked, the fruit does not ripen properly, is deficient in quality and size, and keeps poorly, involving the additional expense of washing before it can be packed and shipped.

The sooty mould is a vegetable or fungi growth and is produced almost altogether in Florida by this insect. (I have observed the same growth produced by scale in this county. In California the black scale produces it.)

"The life round of the insect, briefly, is as follows. The winter is passed in the mature larvae stage, as a thin, elliptical, scale like object on the under side of the leaves.

Early in the spring the transformation to the pupal stage occurs. This stage differs but slightly from the larvae in appearance. The adults begin to appear by the middle of March and continue to emerge into April.

The eggs deposited by this brood require about three weeks for development, hatching into larvae from the middle of April to first of May.

The adults of the second brood begin to emerge by the middle of June and continue to appear till the middle of July. Between the middle of July and the middle of September a third brood is developed, the larvae of which, hatching about the last of October, carry the insect through the winter.

The number of eggs laid by a single female is in the neighborhood of twenty-five and they are by placed by preference, upon new leaves, but all of the plant is taken when the multiplication of the insect makes it necessary. The young larva is active, resembling closely the larva of a true scale insect. The life of an adult ranges from ten to twenty days.

The most satisfactory remedies for this insect, as demonstrated by the experiments of Messrs. Swingle and Webber, are kerosene and rosin washes. The treatment can best be made during the winter, between December and March, and again if necessary in May, and also in August or early in September. Two or three applications may be made in winter. The application in August is made if the sooty mould is found to be spreading to the fruit.

Since the insect lives on the under side of the leaves almost exclusively, it is of prime importance to see that the under side is thoroughly wetted with the spray, and to be at all effective it is necessary that the tree be opened up by pruning. (Air and sunlight are not conducive to the propagation of this insect or scale but it delights in a dark dense growth and hot humid atmosphere.) Fumigation with hydrocyanic-acid gas is also a ready means of destroying this insect. It is kept more or less in check by parasitic and predaceous enemies, and is

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## GEORGE D. SMITH

### YOUNGEST SON OF DR. C. H. SMITH, DEAD.

It was a day of "clouds and thick darkness" in the home of Dr. C. H. Smith when little George Dewey, the youngest of the family, passed away, Friday afternoon.

It was only a trivial accident common to childhood, a rusty nail penetrating the foot while out at play, but it resulted soon in a case of blood poisoning which baffled the best medical skill of the physicians in attendance, and after a few days of intense suffering, his gentle spirit winged its flight from earth.

Although just eight years of age, George had not only become the darling of the household, but had become a general favorite among both old and young in a large circle of acquaintances.

A boy of unusual brightness of mind and gentleness of heart, of genial disposition, and wide awake activity, he won his way into the heart of all who knew him and gave promise of a life of unusual distinction and usefulness.

But the Divine Shepherd "who gathers the lambs with his arms and carries them in his bosom," saw it best to remove him to fairer and greener pastures in his own better land.

The Presbyterian church was too small for the large congregation which assembled at ten o'clock Sunday morning and the Methodist church, which was kindly extended, was filled to overflowing with the sympathizing friends of the stricken family.

The floral offerings were abundant and beautiful, the services were conducted by the ministers of the two churches, and when the casket was deposited in the little grave, which was surrounded by matings and beautifully lined with white draperies, death seemed robbed of its repulsiveness and the mother's darling laid in the arms of Him "who giveth his beloved sleep."

K.

### Col. H. R. Duval Suggests Some Timely Advice.

I note the several communications through the Times-Union, of Jacksonville, between Colonel Duval and Captain Marewell.

Kindly allow me space to assist Captain Marewell to make the request from Colonel Duval as universal as is possible, feeling that this is a meritorious tribute to one of Florida's staunchest friends, who also have been of incalculable benefit to many who were living in the territory north, east, south and west in Florida, adjacent to the roads in which he was chief executive officer for a number of years.

I wish to add my tribute of admiration for this estimable gentleman, for to become personally acquainted with Colonel Duval is a great pleasure, and the oftener you meet him the more endeared you become to him, through his exceedingly pleasant and affable approachability. A man occupying the position which he did, was naturally required to be learned and resourceful and endowed with an unusual amount of determination and it tempered with a leniency that afforded all latitude in correspondence and discussion

among his friends and employees.

The era of which I am writing goes back to the railroading through the eighties and nineties. During these periods railroading could well be termed in its infancy or imperfectly developed stage in Florida. However, we note the perfecting of the trunk lines traversing many states in which this gentleman was identified and the development of many of the state's resources, affording revenue and employment to many.

I wish here to indicate through my references that the policy holders of the Mutual Life of New York could be flattered in securing this grand old gentleman's acceptance as a candidate for trusteeship in their regular elections, and his acceptance, influences my small quota in becoming a policy holder in the Mutual Life.

I would kindly urge and request our many friends to be governed by his suggestions and hold their proxies in abeyance and subject to themselves and in direct communication with the company. I believe it is for their mutual interest, as Colonel Duval assures them.

G. W. W.

### Orphanage Day in Arcadia.

Though pressed with work, we feel that we must stop a moment to express our appreciation of the liberal response to our appeal for Orphanage Day.

Mr. W. H. Hooker, after spending last Saturday in noble effort for contribution for the Orphanage, drove out near night and turned over to us in cash and checks, \$240.80, given by the friends of this work. There is yet on Mr. Hooker's list of good subscriptions yet unpaid, about \$60.00, which will swell the day's work to \$300, perhaps more. Others in Arcadia and Surrounding country whose post office is Arcadia, and whose names are not on Mr. Hooker's list, sent us sums amounting to \$52.75, thus making the sum total \$353.55. The amount already received is \$293.55 for Arcadia.

Last year the contributions for Orphanage Day from all over the State was \$290. You see that Arcadia's cash contribution on last Saturday exceeded that of the whole State one year ago; and when the subscriptions yet unpaid come in the sum will be about \$60. more. Of course this was contributed by many in Arcadia and country. It was written freely and liberally. Our hearts are full of thankfulness to Mr. Hooker, and to every one who so kindly contributed to make such a big day's work possible.

Whatever be the earnings of other days, in view of the fact that these gifts of labor and money were for the Orphanage, in the light of divine things, never was there a bigger day in any life. You have our sincere heartfelt thanks! B. M. BEAN, Mrs. B. M. BEAN.

### New Minister Here.

Rev. B. P. Robertson, the new Baptist preacher, arrived the last of last week and preached two sermons on Sunday at the Baptist church. We hear many words of satisfaction from those who heard him. The other ministers in our city called off their services in order to give Brother Robertson greeting on Sunday night.

## CUBAN SITUATION

### AS SEEN BY ONE WHO IS ON THE CUBAN SOIL.

SANCTI SPIRITUS, CUBA, Oct. 2, '06

DEAR ARCADIANS: So the war is over! At least so they say. For my part, it seems hard to have any confidence any more. Now we are beginning again where we began January 1, 1899. Of course the condition of the island is much better now, but that is not a guarantee of tranquility. We were quite disappointed at the turn affairs took in the turning out of the Palma government as we had nothing against the government and thought the rebellion ought to be put down and the rebels made to suffer. The way it has turned out may be a saving of life and property but it don't so well guarantee future peace, that is, if the government is again turned over to the Cubans as Governor Taft promises, virtually, in his proclamation of September 29. However, it is well not to cross a bridge till you get to it, besides, peace is cheap at any price. I have enough faith in the United States government to believe they will not again leave Cuba till a strong and stable government shall have been established.

American troops are expected here in Spiritus today. Part of the militia has been disbanded and today the rebels of this district are to turn in their arms. It has rained hard nearly all morning and disappointed many people who had planned to go to Lucumi where they are camped about a league from town to see the review. There are 500 or more of them now or about three times as many as there were when the American Commissioners came over. Nearly all the Americans living near town have had horses taken but Mr. Schermerhorn got his back Sunday and I guess the others will get theirs all right.

We haven't been molested in Botijuela since the fight. However, I went to Jibaro Friday to see if it would be safe to come in town.

The weather has been hot and showery and the roads are awful. Lots of grass growing for winter feed, however.

DANIEL CHILD.

### A Tribute to Little George D. Smith

By his Pastor, Rev. H. Kelgwin.  
Gone from the heart is the hope that was cherished,  
Gone from the home is the brightest and best,  
Faded, the flower that so fondly we nourished,  
But it blooms amaranthine in realms of the blest.  
Brief were the pleasures that dawned on his vision,  
Brief were his glimpses of gladness and love,  
But now he enjoys all the pleasures of heaven,  
That bloom in the paradise garden above.

Sadly we miss from our loving embraces  
The gentlest and tenderest lamb of the fold,  
But the Shepherd who carries the lambs in his bosom  
Has borne him aloft to the City of Gold.  
Then rest, gentle boy, from all sorrow and mourning,  
In the home where the Savior has taken thee in.  
We'll meet thee again in the bright happy morning,  
Untarnished by evil, unsullied by sin.  
Arcadia, Fla., Oct. 6, 1906.